(a) whether it is fact that Government of United Kingdom has extedned a helping hand to Mahila Samakhya Programme, which aims; for empowerment of women in rural areas for seven years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that nearly one million pounds would be given to our country during the next three years, under the above programme;

(d) if so, the details of assistance extended to the rural women in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) to what extent this would help in achieving the goal of sending every girl to school by 2011?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) Mahila Samakhya is an on-going Central Sector Programme.The Mahila Samakhya Programme has a range of interventions that draw women and girls into the educational process and it has also forged linkages with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which is Government of India's flagship scheme for universalisation of elementary education. Rs. 5 crores has been released for the Mahila Samakhya Programme in Andhra Pradesh in 2007-08. The Department for International Development (DFID) of Unietd Kingdom (UK) has agreed to provide assistance for an amount of 35 million pound sterling to the Mahila Samakhya Programme for a seven-year period starting 2007-08.

Utilization of funds for women's schemes in Uttar Pradesh

*153. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be plesed to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that huge funds for women's schemes remain unutilized in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned to the State for various women's schemes and the status thereof;

(c) whether Government is also aware that funds given for various projects and programmes under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act in the State also remain unutilized; and

(d) if so, what is the mechanism to monitor proper utilization of the funds allocated for particular projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Under Swayamsiddha out of total grant admissible amounting to Rs. 1517.80 lakhs for the entire project period an amount of Rs. 993.12 lakhs have been released to Uttar Pradesh Government. The State Government has utilized an amount of Rs. 617.55 lakhs and unspent balance reported is Rs. 375.57 lakhs as per UC furnished.

(c) No funds have been provided to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Funds provided under Swayamsiddha are monitored through the Annual Action Plan, Quarterly Progress Reports received from the States and Quarterly Review meetings.